

1 Amendments to the Claims:

2 Please cancel claims 9 and 17-20, without prejudice.

3 Please amend claims 1, 4-6, 8 and 10-15, as indicated below.

4 Claim 1 (currently amended) An apparatus for electrically connecting two objects  
5 together, comprising:

6 a first object which has a first connective surface defined thereon;

7 a ~~plurality~~row of first electrical ~~pads~~contacts supported on the first connective  
8 surface;

9 a second object which has a second connective surface defined thereon;

10 a ~~plurality~~row of second electrical ~~pads~~contacts supported on the second  
11 connective surface and configured to contact the first electrical ~~pads~~contacts; and,

12 a guide that allows~~wherein~~ the first and second objects are ~~further configured to~~  
13 be placed adjacent to one another in facilitation of electrical connection  
14 therebetween~~electrically connected to each other by substantially constraining~~  
15 movement of the first object relative to the second object ~~into~~ a given direction and along  
16 a continuous path of movement which is substantially parallel to the row of first  
17 ~~connective surface~~electrical contacts.

18 Claim 2 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, and wherein the path of movement is  
19 substantially straight.

20 Claim 3 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, and wherein the first and second  
21 connective surfaces are substantially flat.

22 Claim 4 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1, and wherein the first and  
23 second objects are further configured to be subsequently electrically  
24 ~~disconnected~~moved away from each other by movement of the first object relative to the  
25 second object along the path of movement in ~~any one of a plurality of directions~~the given  
direction.

1 Claim 5 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1, and wherein the guide  
2 comprises:

3 ~~the first connective surface forms an open-ended trough defined on the first~~  
4 ~~connective surface; and,~~

5 ~~the second connective surface forms a ridge which is defined on the second~~  
6 ~~connective surface and which is configured to matingly engage the trough when the first~~  
7 ~~and second objects are placed adjacent to one another in facilitation of electrical~~  
8 ~~connection therebetween electrically connected.~~

9 Claim 6 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1, and further comprising an  
10 alignment member which is movably supported on the second object and which is  
11 configured to engage the ~~second~~first object when moved so as to substantially align the  
12 first electrical padscontacts with the second electrical padscontacts in order to facilitate  
13 ~~contact~~electrical connection therebetween.

14 Claim 7 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, and wherein the first and second  
15 connective surfaces are substantially parallel and in juxtaposed relation when the first  
16 and second objects are electrically connected.

17 Claim 8 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1, and wherein the first electrical  
18 ~~pads~~contacts are ~~configured to be~~ resiliently flexible, and are ~~further~~ configured to be  
19 deflected when the first and second objects are electrically connected.

20 Claim 9 (cancelled):

21 Claim 10 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 95, and wherein, the first and  
22 second objects are ~~further~~ configured such that the ridge and the trough can be  
23 disengaged by movement of the first object relative to the second object along the path  
24 of movement in ~~any of a number of directions~~the given direction.

25 Claim 11 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 95, and wherein the ridge and  
the trough are substantially parallel to the path of movement.

1 Claim 12 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 9~~1~~, and further comprising an  
2 alignment member which is movably supported on the second object, and wherein:

3 a first cam surface is defined on the alignment member and is configured to  
4 contact the first object during movement of the alignment member so as to substantially  
5 align the first ~~object~~electrical contacts with the second electrical contacts in a lateral  
6 direction that is substantially normal to the path of movement; and,

7 a second cam surface is defined on the alignment member and is configured to  
8 contact the first object during movement of the alignment member so as to substantially  
9 align the first ~~object~~electrical contacts with the second electrical contacts in a fore-and-  
aft direction that is substantially parallel to the path of movement.

10 Claim 13 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 12~~6~~, and wherein the alignment  
11 member is further configured to engage the first object so as to substantially lock the first  
12 and second objects together.

13 Claim 14 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 9, and further comprising an  
14 alignment member which is movably supported on the second object, and wherein a first  
15 cam surface is defined on the alignment member and is configured to contact the first  
16 object during movement of the alignment member so as to cause substantial alignment  
17 of the first ~~object~~electrical contacts with respect to the second object electrical contacts  
in a lateral direction that is substantially normal to the path of movement;

18 Claim 15 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 14~~12~~, and wherein:

19 ~~a second cam surface is defined on the alignment member and is configured to~~  
20 ~~contact the first object during movement of the alignment member so as to cause~~  
21 ~~substantial alignment of the first object with respect to the second object in a fore-and-aft~~  
22 ~~direction; and,~~

23 a third cam surface is defined on the alignment member and is configured to  
24 resiliently deflect the second electrical ~~pads~~contacts during movement of the alignment  
25 member so as to selectively cause the second electrical ~~pads~~contacts to contact the first  
electrical ~~pads~~contacts after engagement of the ridge and trough substantial alignment  
thereof.

1 Claim 16 (original): The apparatus of claim 15, and wherein the third cam surface is  
2 further configured to move independently with respect to the first and second cam  
3 surfaces.

4 Claims 17-20 (cancelled).

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6 Claim 21 (new): The apparatus of claim 1, and further comprising an alignment member  
7 which is movably supported on the second object, and wherein a cam surface is defined  
8 on the alignment member and is configured to contact the first object during movement  
9 of the alignment member so as to substantially align the first electrical contacts with the  
10 second electrical contacts in a fore-and-aft direction that is substantially parallel to the  
11 path of movement.

12 Claim 22 (new): The apparatus of claim 1, and further comprising an alignment member  
13 which is movably supported on the second object, and wherein a cam surface is defined  
14 on the alignment member and is configured to resiliently deflect the second electrical  
15 contacts during movement of the alignment member so as to selectively cause the  
16 second electrical contacts to contact the first electrical contacts after placement of the  
17 first and second objects adjacent to one another.

18 (End of Preliminary Amendments)

19 (Continued on next page.)  
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